

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
DALLAS DIVISION

AMANDA G. CASTILLANES,	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	No. 3:23-cv-01601-L (BT)
	§	
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE,	§	
Defendant.	§	

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Plaintiff Amanda G. Castellanes initiated this *pro se* civil action on July 18, 2023, when she filed a complaint, motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*, and a motion to appoint counsel. The Court attempted to screen her complaint, but the complaint failed to comply with [Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8\(a\)](#), which requires a short and plain statement of the claims showing plaintiff is entitled to relief. The Court sent Castellanes a Notice of Deficiency and Order ([ECF No. 10](#)) directing her to file a complaint in compliance with Rule 8(a). The Order further informed Castellanes that failure to respond and cure the deficiency by August 24 could result in a recommendation that her case be dismissed. Castellanes has not filed an amended complaint or otherwise complied with the Court's July 24 Order. Therefore, this case should be dismissed without prejudice pursuant to [Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41\(b\)](#).

Rule 41(b) allows a court to dismiss an action *sua sponte* for failure to prosecute or for failure to comply with the federal rules or any court order. [\*Griggs v. S.G.E. Mgmt., L.L.C.\*, 905 F.3d 835, 844 \(5th Cir. 2018\)](#) (citing [\*McCullough v. Lynaugh\*, 835 F.2d 1126, 1127 \(5th Cir. 1988\)](#) (per curiam)); accord [\*Nottingham v. Warden, Bill Clements Unit\*, 837 F.3d 438, 440 \(5th Cir. 2016\)](#) (failure to comply with a court order); [\*Rosin v. Thaler\*, 450 F. App'x 383, 383-84 \(5th Cir. 2011\)](#) (per curiam) (failure to prosecute). “This authority [under Rule 41(b)] flows from the court’s inherent power to control its docket and prevent undue delays in the disposition of pending cases.” [\*Boudwin v. Graystone Ins. Co., Ltd.\*, 756 F.2d 399, 401 \(5th Cir. 1985\)](#) (citing [\*Link v. Wabash, R.R. Co.\*, 370 U.S. 626 \(1962\)](#)).

Castillanes did not respond to the Notice of Deficiency and Order; nor did she file a complaint that complies with Rule 8(a). She has thus failed to comply with the Court’s order. And the Court cannot distinguish Castillanes’s claims as presented.

Her complaint, handwritten and filed on the court-approved form, has several attachments. Castillanes states that she was at a “unit” where “SMS Hickey” did not deem her fit for what an “Air Force person should be.” Compl. 1 ([ECF No. 3](#)). She further states that she “could never do no right.” *Id.* Castillanes contends that she suffered from depression and anxiety, which were caused by having to go to the unit when she did not know what she would be written up for each time. She concludes that she found out “the

truth,” and she learned that her Army time was listed as Navy time. On the civil cover sheet attached to her complaint, she references ERISA.

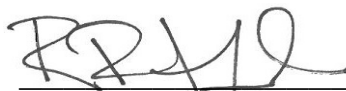
Castillanes fails to provide a short and plain statement of her claim(s) showing she is entitled to relief. See [Fed. R. C. P. 8\(a\)\(2\), \(3\)](#). She does not allege sufficient facts to “raise a right to relief above the speculative level.” *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 556, (2007). Nor does she specify the relief she seeks. This litigation cannot proceed until she cures this deficiency by filing a complaint in compliance with Rule 8(a). Dismissal without prejudice is warranted under these circumstances.

### **Recommendation**

The Court should dismiss Castillanes’s complaint without prejudice under Rule 41(b).

SO RECOMMENDED.

Signed September 1, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RR 10', is written over a horizontal line.

REBECCA RUTHERFORD  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND  
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT

A copy of this report and recommendation shall be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of this report and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. See [28 U.S.C. § 636\(b\)\(1\)](#); [FED. R. CIV. P. 72\(b\)](#). In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's report and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. See [Douglass v. United Services Automobile Ass'n](#), 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996).